

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraphs:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Great Britain Application No. 0406470.5 filed March 23, 2004. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/GB2005/001165 filed March 23, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was published in English.--

On Page 10, before the last paragraph, please add the following new paragraphs:

--For example, listed below are various features within the scope of the invention.

1. Keyboard means comprising a group of keys arranged about a center in an array extending in two mutually transverse directions and adapted to be operable by a single finger in one or more of the following manners:

(a) so that a single finger with a playing area of maximum diameter 1.5 cm can reach and operate a plurality of at least three of said keys singly or in combinations of two or more

thereof without moving the finger more than a maximum distance of 0.5 cm;

(b) so that a single finger with a playing area of maximum diameter 1.5 cm can operate a plurality of at least three of said keys together.

2. Means in accordance with feature 1, in which each said maximum diameter is 1 cm.

3. Means in accordance with feature 1 or 2, in which said maximum distance is 0.3 cm.

4. Means in accordance with any one of features 1 to 3, in which each said plurality is at least four.

5. A keyboard unit comprising a plurality of keys surrounding a center and operable singly and chordally by a single finger (which term includes a thumb).

6. A unit in accordance with feature 5, in which the keys are connected to operate by a single touch selectively the seven major notes of an octave of the musical scale.

7. A unit in accordance with feature 5 or 6, in which the keys are connected to operate by a single touch selectively the twelve semitone notes of an octave of the musical scale.

8. A unit in accordance with feature 6 or 7, in which at least six of said seven notes or, as the case may be, at least eleven of said twelve notes are operable in order going around the center.

9. A unit in accordance with any preceding feature, consisting of three keys surrounding a center.

10. A unit in accordance with feature 9, in which in order around the center, the first, second and third keys are connected to operate respectively doh, me, soh of the tonic sol-fah scale, and the first and second keys and the successive other chordal pairs to operate respectively re, fah, lah.

11. A unit in accordance with feature 9 or 10, in which there is no key at the center and the three surrounding keys are operate chordally together to operate te.

12. A unit in accordance with feature 9 or 10, in which there is a center key operable to operate te.

13. A unit in accordance with feature 12, in which chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair thereof, together with the center key operates a note a semitone higher than without the center key.

14. A unit in accordance with any one of features 5 to 9, consisting of four keys surrounding a center.

15. A unit in accordance with feature 14, in which in order around the center the first, second, third and fourth keys are connected to operate doh, me, soh, te.

16. A unit in accordance with feature 14, in which, in order around the center, the first, second, third and fourth keys are connected to operate doh, me, soh, lah.

17. A unit in accordance with feature 16, in which the keys are connected for chordal operation of the three keys opposite the lah key and the doh key to operate a note a semitone above lah and doh respectively, and the three keys opposite the me key and the soh key to operate a note a semitone below me and soh respectively.

18. A unit in accordance with feature 17, in which the keys are connected for chordal operation of the soh and lah keys together to operate a note a semitone above soh.

19. A unit in accordance with feature 5, in which there is a center key.

20. A unit in accordance with feature 19, when appendant to any one of features 11 to 14, in which the center key is operable to operate te.

21. A unit in accordance with feature 19 when appendant to any one of features 11 to 14, in which the center key is operable to operate fah.

22. A unit in accordance with any one of features 15 or 18 or 20 or 21, arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair of surrounding keys, together with the center key to operate a note a semitone higher than without the center key.

23. A unit in accordance with feature 15 or 18 or 20 or 21, arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal pair of surrounding keys, together with the

center key to operate a note a semitone lower than without the center key.

24. A unit in accordance with any one of features 15 or 18 or 20 or 21, arranged for chordal operation of a surrounding lah, doh, me or soh key together with the center key to operate respectively the semitones above lah and doh and the semitones below me and soh.

25. A unit in accordance with any one of features 5 to 8, consisting of seven keys surrounding a center.

26. A unit in accordance with feature 25, in which there is a center chordally operable with a surrounding key, or an adjacent chordal thereof, to provide a shift function.

27. A unit in accordance with feature 5, comprising a center key, the keys being connected for chordal operation of the center key together with any one or more of the surrounding keys to operate a note a whole number of octaves above (or below) the same without the center key.

28. A keyboard unit comprising a plurality of keys adapted for operation by a single finger and substantially according to any embodiment hereinbefore described.

29. A keyboard comprising a plurality of spaced apart said means and/or units, each as claimed in any preceding feature.

30. A keyboard in accordance with feature 29, comprising a group of said means and/or units arranged to be operable by one and the same finger.

31. A keyboard in accordance with feature 30, comprising a plurality of said groups arranged to be operable by respective fingers.

32. A keyboard in accordance with feature 31, in which the means and/or units of a said group operable by one finger are connected to select one instrumental sound and those of another said group operable by another finger are connected to select a different instrumental sound.

33. A keyboard in accordance with feature 31, in which one said means and/or unit in each said finger group is connected to be operable to select a first instrumental sound and another said unit in each of the same groups is connected to be operable to select a second instrumental sound.

34. A keyboard in accordance with any one of features 31 to 33, in which the said means and/or units of each said finger

group are arranged in a column and the columns are approximately parallel to facilitate simultaneous playing operation of some or all of the groups by a single hand.

35. A keyboard in accordance with feature 29, in which the said means and/or units are arranged in positions corresponding to the keys on a piano.

36. A keyboard substantially according to any example hereinbefore described.

37. A musical instrument comprising a keyboard according to any one of features 29 to 36.

38. A guitar comprising a keyboard in accordance with feature 29, in which the said means and/or units are spaced along the back of the guitar neck for operation by the thumb of a hand that does the guitar fingering.

39. A means, unit or keyboard in accordance with any one of features 1 to 38, connected to operate alphanumeric characters selectively.

40. A keyboard in accordance with feature 39 when appendant to feature 31, connected for said groups to be operable



simultaneously by respective fingers to operate a selected ordered set of alphanumeric characters.

41. A means, unit or keyboard in accordance with any one of features 1 to 40, connected to operate lights selectively.

42. A means, unit or keyboard in accordance with any one of features 1 to 41, comprising a QWERTY keyboard.

43. A means, unit or keyboard in accordance with any one of features 1 to 42, comprising a mosaic keyboard.

44. Keyboard means in accordance with any one of features 1 to 4, comprising a unit, keyboard or musical instrument in accordance with any one of features 5 to 43.--